

# Islamic Movement

Prerequisites for Success



# 3 realities which lead to dismal situation of Muslims

- 1-People engaged in the task of reconstruction and reform are **very small in number**
- 2- A large number of them do not possess the **essential attributes** that could bring about the success of the mission
- 3-Government is the most important agency that can help build a healthy social order. **People in general are misled** to deprive them of their intrinsic capability to make a right choice.

# 4 reasons for optimism

- 1- Among Muslims, there are those who have a burning desire for reforms and reconstruction and possess capacity for initiative and sound planning
- 2-Muslim masses could be hoodwinked due to lack of knowledge, but once informed, they would never agree to the forces of destruction that are generally manifest through the activities of the deceits and cheats

# Reasons for optimism

- 3- Forces of evil, woefully lack two things –
  - strength of an unblemished character
  - unity of thought and action.
- 4-The mission of Islamic revival is in reality Allah's own mission and whosoever works for its success has Allah's blessings

# Things which are not helpful in reformation

- 1- Indulge only in criticism of the vices and evils of the society and others
- 2- Living in the castles of fond hopes and aspirations only
- 3- To do the work in frenzy and momentary zeal
- 4-Lack of tenacity to sticking to one's objective with painstaking labor for the whole of his life.

# 3 Important components of organized work

- 1- **Decision and readiness** to work after proper understanding the mission and its scope
- **2-Qualifications and the attributes** of every individual in the team. This is the deciding factor for the scheme to achieve success or perish in failure.
- **3-Program of action** or the well thought out road map to the goal

# Qualifications and the attributes

- Subsequent to Allah's help, upon which success is based, is the **qualities of the people** dedicated to the work.
- **Personal purification is the first requisite** for the reconstruction of society.
- **One who cannot reform his own self** can never do anything tangible for the reformation of others



# Outline of presentation

We shall deal with this subject in the following order:

- 1. **Individual attributes** necessary for embarking upon the scheme of work;
- 2. **Collective attributes**
- 3. **Qualifications for propagation** and establishment of Islamic way of life;
- 4. **Major vices** that should not defile them individually or collectively;
- 5. **Methods that should help to develop** the required qualifications and the eradication of undesirable blemishes from individuals and the society.

# Personal Qualifications

- **1-True Understanding of Islam**
- Rudimentary knowledge of Islam is not sufficient
- Differentiate between Islamic beliefs and ignorance and also between Islamic behavior and un-Islamic practices
- Guidance Islam has given regarding different aspects of life
- Remove doubts from the minds of the educated people and clear their confusions

# 1-True Understanding of Islam

- Refute the allegations of antagonists in a logical manner
- Solve multifarious problems of life in the light of Islam
- Capacity to reorient knowledge according to the Islamic points of view
- Raise a structure of a new culture and civilization based on eternal canons of Islamic ideology.

## 2-Firm Faith in Islam

- **Their own heart must be satisfied** regarding the truth of their convictions
- **Firm faith in the existence of Allah** and His powers, attributes and rights that have been enunciated in the Holy Qur'an
- **Day of Judgment** is a reality and it is exactly the same as mentioned in the Qur'an.
- The path of righteousness is only one shown by **Quran and the Sunnah of Holy Prophet Muhammad** (may peace be on him).

## 3-Personal Character

- Man's action should be a mirror of his words
- Fact that a certain act will bring Allah's pleasure should be sufficient to make him act with a will and undisturbed attention
- His personality should be sufficiently strong to overcome fear and temptation
- Able to fight all opposition and remain firm in the path of truth.

## 4-Islam as Aim of Life

- They may engage themselves in other activities to keep body and soul together.
- The only purpose of their life should be the accomplishment of the task before them
- Should be prepared to sacrifice their time, their worldly possessions, their body and soul, and put to use the entire genius of their mind and heart.

## II. Collective Qualifications

### 1-Brotherhood and Love

- They should be like a structure whose strength lies in the mutual setting of bricks pasted with cement
- Things that make them stick together is sincere love, mutual sympathy and well-wishing and the spirit of self-sacrifice
- Such a group is like a mould of steel in which Satan cannot find any loophole for creating dissensions

## 2-Mutual Consultation

- Strong-headed individuals who act according to their personal whims can not function
- Few influential individuals forming a group, commanding others to follow their dictates lead to chaos.
- Real work can be accomplished through mutual consultations only



# Advantages of consultations

- Multiple individuals examine pros and cons of a problem dispassionately and arrive at a better decision
- When decision is made with consultation, entire organization tries to carry it forward with earnestness and nobody thinks that it is thrust upon him.
- It opens avenues for appreciating the different aspects of a problem.

# Norms of consultation

- Everyone should **present his views honestly** and should not hide anything within himself.
- He should **not have recourse to obstinacy** or stubbornness and should be free from bias.
- And **once a decision is taken, those holding opposite views should accept** it with an open heart and should not insist on their own views though they may not change their opinion.
- They should then **try to work according to** the decision of the party.

# 3-Discipline

- Entire organization should **follow the procedure** adopted by it
- The **instructions of those in leadership** position should be assiduously followed
- Every member of the organization should perform his share of duty **promptly and punctually**.
- Those workers who participate to do a given piece of work must **fully cooperate with one another**
- Machinery of the party should be so well set that its **different parts should start moving** as soon as a decision is taken to accomplish a scheme of work.

## 4-Constructive Criticism

- A group of blind followers in spite of treading the right path,, finds its efforts bearing no fruits on account of faults creeping where there is none to look at the weaknesses
- This is due to lack of attention or forced silence
- Criticism, in essence, is the main agency that brings at the surface faults and defects in time

# Etiquettes of Criticism

- It should not be done for fault-finding
- It should be resorted to with honesty with an eye on reform.
- Critics should be fully aware of its proper way.
- Good-intentioned critic by his unbalanced, misplaced, untimely and ugly criticism can bring the same harm to his organization as a fault-finding and evil-intentioned mischief-monger can do.

# III-Complimentary Attributes

## 1-Attachment to Allah and Sincerity

- One should **work for Allah** alone and seek His pleasure.
- **Love for Allah** alone should be the motivating factor
- **Full confidence** should be placed only in His approval and help.
- **All hopes of reward** should be associated with Him
- **His instructions and commands** - both pertaining to "Dos" and "Don'ts" should be assiduously followed.
- **The fear of His retribution** alone should pervade the heart.

## 2-Concern for Hereafter

- Whatever a believer does it is not for this world but for Hereafter.
- He does not aim at worldly gains
- Nothing is hidden from the view of Allah to Whom he has dedicated himself,
- The success attained there would be real success

# 3-Unblemished Character

- They should be sympathetic to people and well-wishers of the humanity at large.
- They should be merciful and noble-minded and should be imbued with a sense of self-respect and contentment.
- Their tongue should be sweet and their behavior soft
- They should be immune from the capacity to inflict pain and everyone should expect good from them.



# Unblemished character

- They should be prepared to give to others more than their due and have for themselves less than their share.
- They should return evil with good
- They should admit their faults and appreciate good qualifications of others
- They should be possessed of a heart capable of ignoring the weaknesses of others, pardoning their faults, treating lightly their excesses and not taking revenge for the sake of their personal self.

# Unblemished character

- They should be such as to be happy by serving others and not by being served and may work, not for their own benefit but for the good of others.
- They should go on doing their duty, ignoring praise and remaining unmindful of abuses.
- They should be such as not to submit to force and should not be susceptible to stoop before the power of money.
- They bow their heads in the face of truth and enjoy confidence of their enemies as well, with regard to their never resorting to any action not in keeping with nobleness, honesty and justice

## 4-Forbearance & Steadfastness

- He should not be impatient to see the result of his efforts on the spur of the moment, and may not lose heart if the results take sometime to appear.
- Work assiduously for an objective for the whole of his life and should not deviate his attention in spite of repeated failures
- He should not be weak in determination and hold doubtful opinions.

# Forbearance & Steadfastness

- He should face difficulties and misfortunes with manliness and should patiently suffer whatever trouble comes to him
- Forbearance also connotes that one should not be easily excitable or susceptible to grief. It is needed for confrontation with opposition but sometimes he has to face bitter remarks of his co-workers
- Forbearance also signifies that one should stick to the true path in the face of fear and temptation.

# 5- Wisdom

- Wisdom is an all-comprehensive word
- Deep insight and prudence
- Capacity to understand problems and solve them.
- Analyze different situations and make plans to grapple with them
- To understand human psychology and deal with people accordingly
- To be conversant with the nature of one's task and its details and also to be able to face the difficulties and pitfalls in its process is real wisdom

# Wisdom

- Crowning quality in the category of wisdom is that one should understand Islam and possess a deep insight into the affairs of the world
- One should be aware of the rationale of the commands and know situations and problems of society wherein he has to put schemes into actual practice.

# Can only perfect humans do this task?

- Each and every qualification need not adorn every individual to the degree of perfection
- It is not also necessary that these should be there in an individual in perfect degree in the initial stages
- Workers must subject themselves to introspection to find out whether they possess the raw material for the qualifications.
- If present in a human being, attains perfect form with proper effort, attention and education.

# IV-Basic Faults

## 1-Pride

- Greatness is associated with Allah alone and pride for loftiness among humans is a conspicuous fault
- Individuals or groups under the influence of conceit lose all favors of Allah.
- He continues to commit follies consequently meets failures
- People start hating him to the extent his pride manifests itself before them
- Finally, he fails to build any moral influence among the people after earning the disapproval of the people in general.



# Remedy for pride

## 1. Submission and thankfulness to Allah

- Greatness is Allah's sole prerogative
- Any slave developing the quality of goodness owes it to Allah
- This calls for thanksgiving and not self-exultation.
- Hence, more humility before Allah is called for

# Remedy for Pride

- **2-Introspection-**
- One must scrutinize oneself and takes stock of his faults and deficiencies
- One who has an eye on his sins and faults will be immensely busy in craving pardon for them
- **3-Eye on Lofty Personalities-**

One should have an eye on the lofty personalities of religion and morality that make him appear low in comparison

## 2-Show off or Riya

- It is the desire to earn fame in return for good
- A hypocrite's goal is the approbation of the people. He seeks popularity, influence and authority in this world only
- He becomes more interested in the publicity of his work in preference to its successful completion
- It nullifies the action as regards the results but it becomes impossible to take to any correct course in association with this base urge.

# Remedy for Riya

- **A-Individual Efforts:**
- Do certain good works that can be kept in hiding
- One should assess if he feels more satisfaction with his pious efforts unseen by others or those efforts that are going to bear fruits before the public.

# Remedy for Riya

- **B-Collective Efforts:**
- Restrict publicity to real necessity
- Even the slightest fondness for show should be nipped in the bud.
- Internal atmosphere of the group should be such as to nurse a mentality of unconcern for praise and condemnation of the public
- If a few members of the group may show hypocritical tendency, they should not be encouraged, instead proper care should be taken for their treatment.

# 3-Impious intention

- Intention should not be associated with any of our personal or group interests
- Neither should we aim at any worldly gain
- Debased intentions produce unhealthy influence on character
- In the struggle for empowerment, one must differentiate power for principles and power for self. Group should collectively try to see that the intention of achievement of power for themselves should never infest their group.

# V-Human Weaknesses

- 1. Selfishness
- 2. Temperamental imbalance
- 3. Narrow-mindedness
- 4. Weak determination

# 1-Selfishness

- Most potent and disturbing one
- Its reality lies in the natural feeling of love for self
- When through Satanic incitation it changes into intense love to self and makes him self-centered, it then becomes the foundation of evil.
- In every stage of its progress produces a new chain of faults



# Self Exultation

- Considers his own self free from faults and also a store of good qualities,
- Refrains from taking stock of his weakness and faults
- Satisfies his heart by an apologetic approach to all his drawbacks and deficiencies.
- Closes the door for this reform and progress with his own hands.
- Keen to hear praise for his own self and has no patience for criticism.

# Consequences of self exultation

- One who is concentrated in self has to suffer many shocks in collective life
- Shocks of conflicts and defeats of his fond aspirations involve his injured pride into very serious types of vices
- Start a conflagration of jealousy against some and spite against others
- Scrutinizes the affairs of others, finds fault with them and indulges in speaking ill of them

# Grouping and in fights

- Feels pleasure at knowing their faults and indulges in tale bearing against others.
- He moves about indulging in whisper campaigns and weaving plots
- If the number of such people is significant, the whole of social life will be affected by their evil behavior
- Mutual discord is bound to surface
- Nothing can prevent grouping in such a state of affairs

# Remedy for self exultation

- Always realize their faults and deficiencies
- Should not get puffed up with pride but with humility and submission
- Supplication for forgiveness and penitence
- Only Allah is to be praised for the success of the great mission brought about through your efforts
- Expression of truth (Muhasibah) in the face of powerful and tyrannical persons has been declared as the best struggle in the way of Allah

# Signs of self exultation a-Jealousy

- Jealousy against those injuring his sense of pride, resulting in discord.
- Prophet, peace be on him, said, "Beware, never indulge in jealousy because it eats away the goodness in man in the same manner as fire destroys the dry faggots."
- Do not nurse spite against each other and do not be jealous of each other.
- Do not turn your back upon each other. Do not break relations with each other. Do not stop conversation with them. It is not permissible for a Muslim to maintain discord with a Muslim brother for more than three days.

## b-Suspicion

- He is ever after finding faults with others
- Person presumes that a particular individual is bad and then he starts making enquiries regarding him to prove his contention.
- Allah says in Surah Hujrat, "Keep yourself aloof from assumptions because some of their kinds are sins. And do not be inquisitive
- Prophet has said, "Beware, never entertain wrong notions regarding others. This attitude is the worst type of lie.

# c-Backbiting

- It may have its roots in suspicion or be based on facts
- It has been defined in the Hadith as "Description of your brother in such a manner as to affront him if he knows it in his absence."
- "Verily, none of you should indulge in backbiting against others, would anyone of you like to eat the flesh of a dead brother. You would definitely hate it." Al Hujurat
- The life, property and honor of a Muslim is sacred trust with another Muslim, never to be violated." Hadith

# d-Tale bearing

- He listens attentively to the calumnies and does not contradict them.
- He then breaks this news to the friend so that the fire that had its origin at one place may spread to the other
- Worst of human characteristics is tale bearing.  
Quran
- "No talebearer can enter Paradise." Hadith
- "The worst of men is one who has two faces. He goes to some people with one face and to some others with the other face. Hadith



# e-Whispering

- Whispering and secret consultations give rise to groupings and collusions and thus antagonistic attitudes develop
- Satan has lost all hope of bringing back those in Arabia to his fold, who have started offering prayers to Allah. All his hopes of deviating them from the right path lie in creating discord among them and making them fight among themselves. (Hadith)

## 2-Tempramental Imbalance

- The natural consequence of temperamental imbalance is imbalance of thoughts, vision, action and efforts
- Unbalanced brains have viewed human problems from one angle only and understood them that way
- Unbalanced schemes to solve them and adopt immoderate means to put them into practice.

# Moderation and not extremism brings success

- Islam presents the best example of moderation and balance
- People suitable to translate its precepts from the pages of books into actions are those whose vision is balanced and whose temperament possesses an equal degree of moderation with the reformist spirit of Islam
- An extremist scheme run by extremist means brings disappointment to the people in general instead of stimulating hope and interest

# Lop-Sided View

- Person sees only one aspect of a problem and ignores the other
- If he sticks to any principle, he goes to the extreme of being static through his adherence to it
- Does not hesitate to use all sorts of means irrespective of their moral justification.

# Extremism

- Insists with unnecessary strictness to have his views accepted and becomes very unbending in a controversy
- He does not examine other people's points of view with justice nor tries to appreciate it.
- He interprets every opposite view with the worst of motives and tries to slight it
- It makes him unbearable to others and makes others irreconcilable to him day by day.
- This attitude cannot be tolerated in any social circle.

# Collective Imbalance

- If very many immoderate temperaments are together in a group, small groups representing particular types of imbalances will emerge
- Extremes will give rise to counter extremes and differences will assume formidable color
- Groups will begin to clash among themselves

# Remedy for collective imbalance

- Everyone has to explain his viewpoint and in turn has to appreciate the opinions of others
- Humility is an essential means to achieve cooperation
- Examine own selves, and avoid all forms of immoderation
- Organization should take care to see that this ailment does not infect its circle.

# Immoderation condemned

- “O bearers of the Book, do not hold exaggerated views on Deen” Quran
- “Beware, do not adopt extremism, because your predecessors got annihilated by adopting extremist attitudes in Deen” Hadith
- Ibn Masood reported that the Prophet repeated thrice during a speech, "The extremists have been annihilated, those who exaggerate and trespass limits"



# Prophet's teachings on ease and moderation

- You have been sent to give consideration, not to tease people.
- It had always been the practice of the Prophet to select the easier alternative provided it did not smack of sin. (Bukhari, Muslim)
- Allah is considerate. He appreciates soft attitude. (Bukhari, Muslim)
- One who is devoid of soft temper is totally bankrupt in goodness. (Muslim)
- Allah is considerate and He likes people with mild temperament.
- He bestows a lot for moderation while denying His blessings for extremism or any similar attitude. (Muslim)

# 3-Narrow-Mindedness

## "Shuhhe-nafs" (centripetal self)

- "Blessed is one who saves himself from it". The Qur'an
- Opposite to piety and "Ihsaan"
- One who suffers from this ailment does not want to allow any concession to others in life
- His own faults appear to him minor but he will not excuse others for their shortcomings
- Irritability of temperament and absence of forbearance
- Mutual hatred and sourness of relations develop.

# Remedy

- Large-heartedness in place of narrow-mindedness
- Munificence in place of miserliness
- Forgiveness instead of cognizance of faults
- Concessions in place of harshness.
- Keep an eye on their own shortcomings and be appreciative of the good qualities of others.
- Accustomed to suffer rather than inflict pain
- Strength to support the weak instead of pushing them to the ground

# 4-Weak Determination

- Person accepts the call of a mission with earnestness
- He evinces much zeal towards it.
- His interest fades with the passage of time
- His heart bears witness to the propriety of the mission and its urgency for accomplishment
- It is not prompted by dishonest intentions, neither any deviation from the aim nor it involves a change in views
- It is the weak determination which shows itself in different ways

# Stages of Weak Determination

- The first sign of weak determination is the attitude of shirking work
- One tries to escape from taking up responsibilities.
- He begins to avoid the employment of his time, labor and money in the way of his mission, and gives preference to worldly interests
- He cares less for the progress of organization and ceases to have any interest in its affairs.

# Stages of Weak Determination

- In this state of carelessness and forgetfulness, his interest loses all its warmth
- Others will get infected by the contagion spread by this person of weak determination
- Once a weakness gets the upper hand. Other faults begin to show themselves
- A person feels embarrassed in exposing his weaknesses
- He tries to shroud it in different ways each worse than the other

# Stages of Weak Determination

- He invents different pretexts for this inaction and comes out with lame excuses
- He attributes his lack of interest to certain shortcomings of the organization and not to his weakness.
- This man stoops lower and lower morally
- Picks up faults and shortcomings of different individuals
- If his assertion was true, he should have become more enthusiastic and active instead of relapsing into idleness.

# Stage of Weak Determination

- An epidemic of fault-finding criticism and counter-criticism is let loose and it destroys the moral nature of the party
- Good-intentioned people, who were free from weak determination, get disappointed by the above situation
- When counter steps are taken to check this situation, these disenchanted people form themselves into a block



# Corrective Steps

- Remain aware of the dangers of weakness of determination
- Workers and leaders should be able to discriminate between its simple and compound stages and their disastrous results
- An enquiry should be made to ascertain if his lack of activity is the result of weak determination or some difficulties are hindering his progress

# Corrective Steps

- If weak determination is proven, they should deal with his case wisely
- When state of a weak-determined person is noticed, it should be corrected through sincere advice and reminding of movement's fundamentals
- Action should be aimed at disallowing the weakness to grow further

# Corrective Steps

- When a person puts forward lame excuses for inaction and has recourse to lies, actions should be taken to stop it
- Any delay in taking prompt action would mean an open invitation to those evils to flourish,
- When an inactive and lazy person finds fault with the members and of the group only to hide his own drawbacks, this is a grave sign
- Instead of allowing him to carry on, he should be warned of the retribution of Allah and he should be put to shame

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عَلِيمٌ  
غَنِيٌّ

وَمَانُفٍ  
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الْأَمْرِ